

Kiwi Fruit

(Chinese Gooseberry)

China: YangTao

France: Groseille

Germany: Chinesische Stachelbeere

The botanical name comes from "aktin", a ray. The plant is not related to the true gooseberry, but the fruit of actinidia.

The fruit has come from China, where it grows on the margins of forests in Yangtse valley. It has been cultivated in Europe since 1900. Cultivation started extensively in China, USSR and more recently in France, Italy, Greece, Spain, the United States, Chile and Israel, both on a commercial scale and in Private gardens. However, it is claimed that nowhere else in the world has the fruit attained the commercial acceptance that it has done in New Zealand.

It was first grown after the turn of the century when the plants were brought from China.

The first New Zealand commercial crops were known to be about 1940, when several small plantings in the Bay of Plenty region came into production. Since then there has been more land taken under cultivation. New Zealand named the Chinese gooseberry "Kiwi Fruit", thus laying some kind of national claim to it. Many people today know it by no other name than "Kiwi Fruit".

Main Known varieties:-

BRUNO Early season, Long Shape fruit and 60-70g Av. fruit size.

ABOTT Mid-season, round shape fruit and 65-70g Av. fruit size.

MONTY Mid-season, round shape fruit and 35-40g Av. fruit size.

HAYWARD Late-season, round shape fruit and 90-95g Av. fruit size.

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